AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn) A method for performing a hybridization assay between a target nucleic acid molecule and an oligonucleotide array, the array comprising a surface to which are covalently attached oligonucleotide probes with different, known sequences, at discrete, known locations, the method comprising the steps of:

incubating the array with a hybridization mixture comprising the target under thermophoretic conditions; and

determining the identity of probes to which the target has hybridized.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the target further comprises a detectable label.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the label is a fluorescent probe molecule.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 wherein the fluorescent probe molecule is fluorescein.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the array has a density of at least ten thousand features per square cm.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein the array has a density of at least one hundred thousand features per square cm.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the array has a density of at least one million features per square cm.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein thermophoretic conditions comprise the application of a temperature gradient perpendicular to the array surface whereby the target is driven to the array surface.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the array surface is vertical and the temperature gradient is horizontal.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the array surface is horizontal and the temperature gradient is vertical.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

reversing the temperature gradient, whereby any unhybridized target is driven away from the array surface.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the temperature gradient is between about 5 and 25°C/mm.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the hybridization mixture further comprises an isostabilizing agent.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for performing a hybridization assay between a target nucleic acid molecule and an oligonucleotide array, the array comprising a surface to which are covalently attached oligonucleotide probes with different, known sequences, at discrete, known locations, wherein such probes have been contacted with a hybridization mixture comprising the target nucleic acid molecule, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a temperature gradient to the array surface whereby any unhybridized target is driven away from the array surface; and

determining the identity of probes to which the target has hybridized.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for performing a binding assay between a target molecule and an array, the array comprising a surface to which are covalently attached a plurality of binding partners with different, known sequences, at discrete, known locations, the method comprising the steps of:

incubating the array with a mixture comprising the target under thermophoretic conditions; and

determining the identity of binding partners to which the target has bound.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the target further comprises a detectable label.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for performing a hybridization assay, comprising a container connected to at least one temperature control blocks in a heat-conducting fashion, such that a temperature gradient is produced.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the container is connected to two temperature control blocks in a heat-conducting fashion.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an inlet port and an outlet port.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an aperture to permit optical access to the container.

21. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

providing a solution of DNA in a container; and

incubating said solution under thermophoretic conditions to create thermal gradients in the solution which result in the redistribution of DNA in the solution.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the redistribution of DNA in the solution further comprises a concentration gradient of the DNA in the solution.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container has a volume of from about 50 to about 500 microliters.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said container further comprises an aperture permitting optical access to the interior of said container.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said container further comprises an inlet port and an outlet port.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container is plastic.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the solution further comprises a detectable label.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the detectable label is a fluorescent dye; a radiolabel; an enzymes; or a spectral colorimetric labels.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the solution comprises fluorescent beads.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container further comprises a temperature monitoring system.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container further comprises a temperature control system.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the thermophoretic conditions further create convective forces.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising

a container having a solution of ~~DNA~~ a target molecule and a substrate therein; and

a temperature control system, wherein said temperature control system creates a temperature gradient ~~thermal gradients~~ in the solution sufficient to produce movement of the target molecule through the solution towards a surface of the substrate and wherein said temperature gradient is substantially perpendicular to the surface of the substrate ~~which result in the redistribution of DNA~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising an inlet port constructed to permit fluid flow into the container and an outlet port constructed to permit fluid flow out of the container.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising an aperture to permit optical access to the container.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the container has a volume of from about 50 to about 500 microliters.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the container is plastic.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the temperature gradient is between about 5°C/mm and 25°C/mm.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the temperature gradient is between about 5°C/mm and 15°C/mm.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the temperature gradients is about 10°C/mm.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the temperature gradient is sufficient to cause at least a portion of the solution to be warmer than the remainder of the solution such that at least a portion of the target molecule moves from the warmer portion of the solution to the cooler portion of the solution.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the movement of the target molecule through the solution is in a direction parallel to the temperature gradient.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the target molecule comprises a nucleic acid.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the target molecule comprises a polynucleotide.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the target molecule comprises DNA.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the target molecule comprises RNA.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the target molecule is labeled with a detectable label.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the detectable label is a luminescent label.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the detectable label is a fluorescent label.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the container further comprises a port constructed to enable fluid flow into and out of the container.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the detectable label is a primary label.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the detectable label is a secondary label.